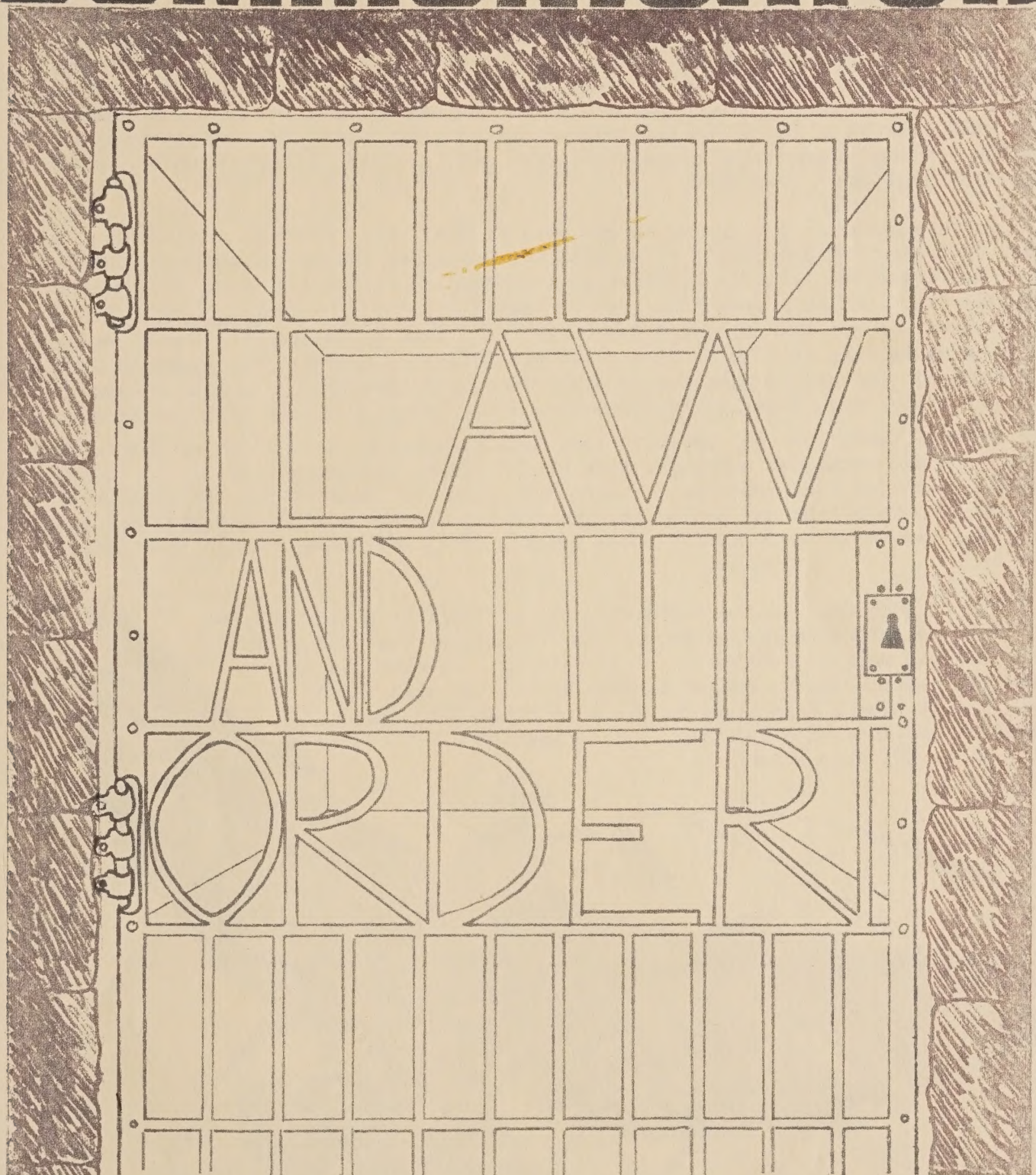


THE COMMUNICATOR



SPRINGHILL PENITENTIARY

vol. 5 ~ no. 3

HOT SUMMER '76

EXCOMMUNICATED

Editorial by Teddy Carr

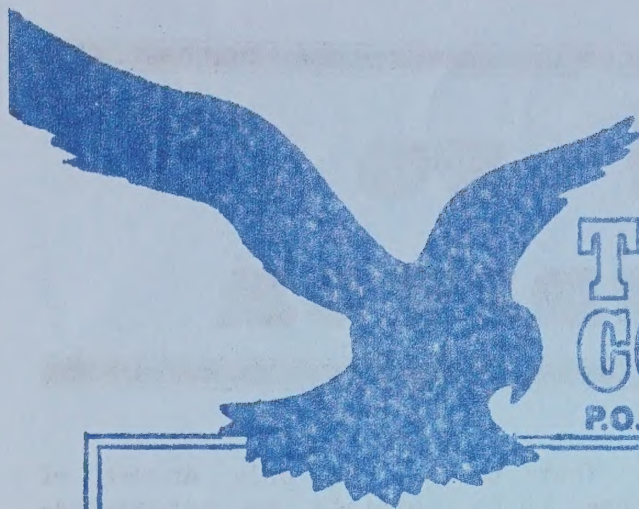
Here's the long winded editor, pen in hand, ready to take on the world in a duel of words. It's been a long uphill struggle getting here, on this page and in your hands, but it certainly was worth every minute of it. And it's gonna stay that way, coming at you more often and with more to say from Springhill.

Firstly, those who have been "Excommunicated" should be disposed of. If you recall from the last installment, John had gotten himself a nice Miami tan. The heat was soon transformed into a dynamic laser ray which fried Dave and John to a crisp. From the small pile of ash that remained arose the new spirit, so that the Communicator will live on to bring you the written word. Yes folks, the miraculous reincarnation of the Phoenix took place right here within these hallowed walls. Some things they just can't keep down.

In this issue we are trying to get away from all the current debate on the subject of "Peace and Security", along with the emotional subject of Capital Punishment. There are two articles focusing on the Canadian criminal justice system and penitentiaries. One is a speech by the Hon. David MacDonald, MP for Egmont, P.E.I., and the other was written by Jack McCann, who is locked up in the B.C. Pen. We've given them space here to talk of ideals and realities, moreover, the everyday life and the needed changes to make the "system" more serviceable to societies needs. Then yours truly, ace investigative reporter, T.C., brings you some straight shootin' by the Inmate Committee and the work they have been doing here. And of course we have all the old sections which you have been looking forward to, so dig in folks. If something raises your eyebrows, riles your spine, or agitates your bile, then by all means drop us a line and let us know you're out there. The Communicator belongs to your written words too. Besides, the Letters department always needs some material.

Due to some unfortunate oversight, (it couldn't be a mistake), we would like to extend thanks to Mr. Dennis Chipman of the Dartmouth Jaycees for his part in getting the Cons walking. Somehow his name slipped off page 18 and we caught it just in time to slip it in here. This is also a good time and place to thank Bob Backen for sharing his knowledge and time, not to mention all the helpful hints and suggestions.





"If you steal a loaf of bread you get a year in jail, but if you steal a railroad you get into the Social Register."

George Bernard Shaw

THE COMMUNICATOR

P.O. BOX 2140, SPRINGHILL, NOVA SCOTIA

COMMUNICATOR STAFF

Teddy Carr, Managing Editor
Brian McInnis, Layout
Greg Scott, Cub Reporter

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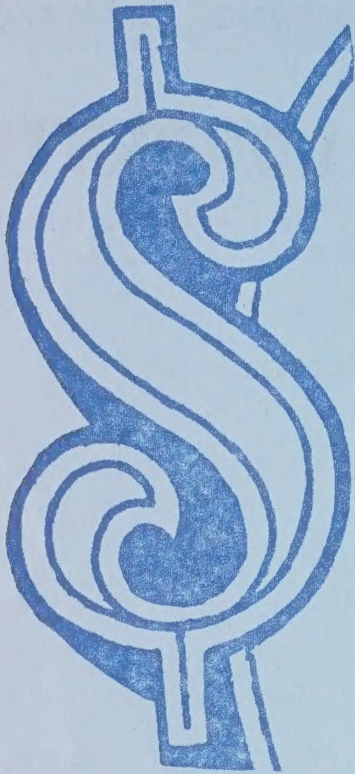
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor:

As everyone is aware, the cost of living is continually rising and inmate pay rates remain the same -- WHY? It seems no one has the answer. A petition pertaining to an across-the-board raise of pay scales has been posted for inmates to sign and will be forwarded to the proper authorities (as many other petitions have). No response has been received, aside from a letter sent to the Inmate Committee stating that the issue was being looked into and our request was on file. An inmate who is in grade one has a net pay of \$4.30 every other pay period: he has enough money to buy his tobacco and coffee and will be OK until next canteen providing he doesn't wash, brush his teeth, or enjoy the occasional can of pop or a chocolate bar from the canteen. Hopefully, this model inmate, who spends so little money doesn't write letters either. We cannot blame the canteen people for the constant increase in prices as they merely pass along the increases they receive. In some cases they try to absorb the increase in price, as they have been doing with the coffee for a long time now. But once again the cost of living has passed us and the price of coffee is increasing from an unreasonable \$2.10 to an outrageous \$2.85. Myself, I don't smoke or buy coffee and I still don't have enough money to last a two week period.

What to do? The only answer of course is to initiate an across-the-board pay raise, effective immediately. The next question that comes to mind is: HOW MUCH? My opinion (for what it's worth) is that a survey be done on exactly how much the cost of living has gone up since the current pay scale was set up and adjust the scale accordingly. Now, it's a very easy matter for me to suggest this but I am sure that Ottawa will find six or seven months worth of red-tape just to send us another, "We are considering it" answer. Another suggestion that comes to mind is to set up a committee of inmates, specifically for the purpose of working on an inmate pay raise campaign. There will be a lot of red-tape involved in obtaining the pay raise, as there are over 9,000 federal prisoners across Canada in various prisons. This issue effects each and every one of us, as well as future inmates. I am doing what I can to help and I am sure the response from you, the inmates here in Springhill and in other prisons will be a great help.

Yours truly,

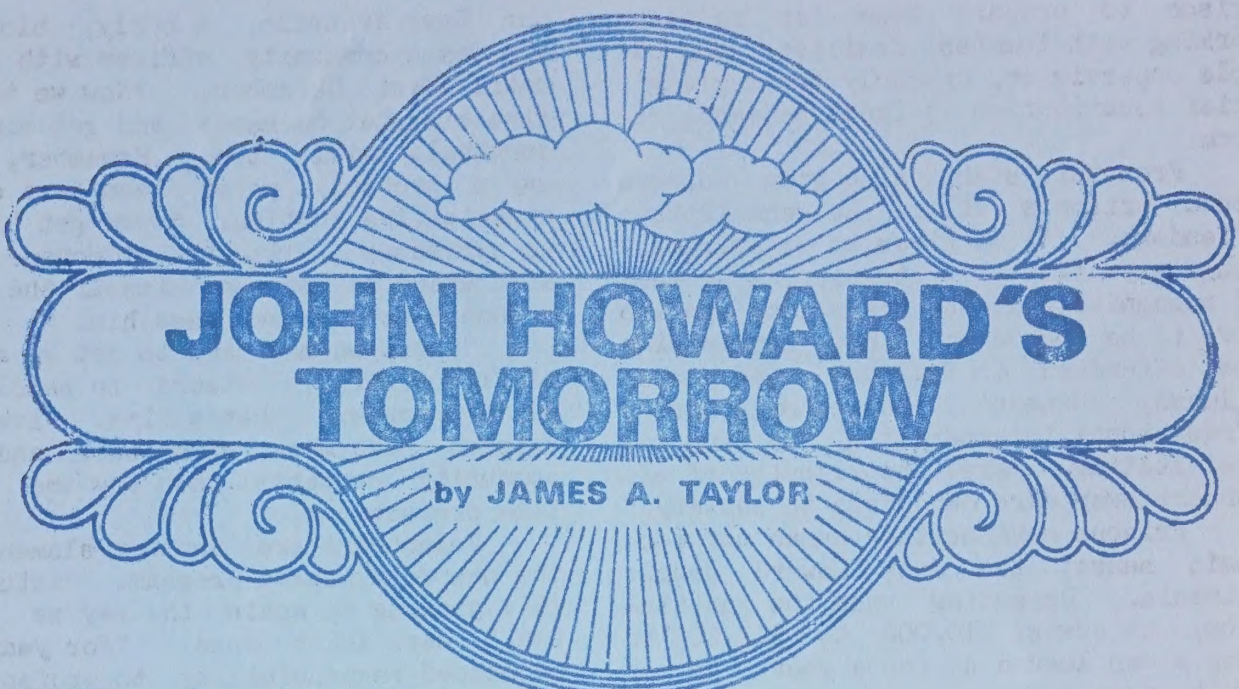
Bill Spears



Dear Editor:

I, Bill Fillis of Living Unit #8, and Burt Chinn, Gerry Rushton, Snoopy Hamilton, Lyle Fraser, and Phil Whynott, wish to express our thanks to Mr. Wright at S.I.S. for his hand in helping us make it possible to go ahead with the carwash in Springhill on Saturday, the 10th of July, 1976. He purchased some things that we were in need of to put the carwash on. The carwash was to help under privileged children and the proceeds went to Mrs. Hurley of Springhill. Also a thanks to Stu Murray, Bob Brown, and Weldon Rideout, staff of unit #8.

Bill Fillis



JOHN HOWARD'S TOMORROW

by JAMES A. TAYLOR

(Reprint from: Imperial Oil Review
1975 Number 5)

When a man emerges from prison, having paid his debt to society, it's one thing to offer him a helping hand. For most people, it's quite a different thing to try to change the social and legal circumstances that led to his criminal record. But that's what Canada's John Howard Society is working for these days.

It's a bit of a change. For years, the various local, provincial, and national John Howard branches have struggled to improve the conditions under which male criminal offenders are sentenced, imprisoned, and released. But they've earned respect mainly for their work in rehabilitating society's outcasts -- the men who are, as one John Howard executive put it, "deviants whose behavior is so unacceptable it's legislated against."

They do it for many reasons. Toronto's "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, executive secretary for the John Howard Society of Canada, says: "When I see the difficulties men have had to surmount to fight their way back to responsible citizenship, the most significant thing for me has been the changes in the lives of men I have known." A grin creases his deeply lined face. "And I've known some pretty hard men."

Glen Hancock of Halifax, national John Howard president, puts it a different way: "The society has made me realize how easy it is to get into trouble and what a wonderful thing it is to have a second chance."

And that second chance came after a man named John Howard, an English philanthropist, was appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1773. He started penal reform in Britain after visiting his jails and finding unpaid prison staffs living on fees extorted from prisoners. Some prisoners, though acquitted, were never released because they couldn't pay jailers' fees.

Long before the John Howard name was used in Canada, there were reform efforts. As far back as 1867, church workers visited Toronto jails to offer spiritual consolation. The Prisoners' Aid Society, as it became known in 1874, realized that inmates' real problems began with release -- something that hasn't changed to this day.

The first John Howard Society in Canada was formed by the Rev. J. Dinnage Hobdon in 1931 in British Columbia. Other provinces followed the example until, in 1962, the John Howard Society of Canada ratified its constitution in Ottawa. It now has 38 branches. Eight provincial societies joined; New Brunswick and Quebec did not. New Brunswick members wished to be more in control of their affairs and make their own presentations to the federal government. In Quebec, the John Howard branch cares for English-speaking inmates, but also is part of the Association of Social Rehabilitative Agencies, working closely with Francophone groups.

At first, the task seemed even tougher than it is now. After getting out of prison, men couldn't get jobs. Without jobs, they couldn't afford food, clothing, or shelter. To survive, they went back to crime. Small wonder "Kirk" Kirkpatrick calls release the "second punishment". "Our societies began operating in a vacuum," observes Keith Couse, the executive director for Ontario. "No one else took responsibility for these men."

In the beginning, help for ex-inmates was offered by the John Howard Society only when men were released from jail. Members and volunteers gave food and shelter, found men jobs, and provided tools and busfares. And this is still a major job of the society. In 1973, it cost \$63,825.

From this start grew the present John Howard roles: visiting inmates in

prison to prepare them for release; working with inmates' families; and parole supervision, probably the society's chief contribution in Canadian penal reform.

From this start also grew concern about prison's failure to rehabilitate offenders. "I've given up on prisons," Couse says flatly. Kirkpatrick agrees: "I recognize that there are some men who have to be locked up, but imprisoning most offenders is futile." And Warren Allmand, Canada's solicitor-general: "Traditional incarceration, far from rehabilitating, makes the majority of offenders even more dangerous to society."

Prisons make neither human nor economic sense, the John Howard people maintain. Depending upon the institution, it costs \$10,000 to \$17,000 to keep a man locked up for a year. Prison won't cure him. On probation with a suspended sentence, keeping the same man would cost less than \$1,000. His family wouldn't be broken up. And if he had a job, he could continue to contribute to Canada's economy.

"Fewer than 15 percent of those people in penitentiaries need maximum security," claims Kirkpatrick. "The rest are there because society demands punishment: 'he hurt me, so I want to hurt him too'." Kirkpatrick spent years fighting governments for smaller medium- and minimum-security prisons, with inmate populations of 150 or less.

With the 1970's came penal reform - new parole regulations, smaller prisons, counseling services -- all the things John Howard members had been working for. In 1973, the retiring Ontario society president, A.B. Whitelaw, could say: "We have been overwhelmed by this excess of concern, speed of change, and the willingness to listen on the part of government people at all levels." Kirkpatrick is justifiably pleased with recent government policies. "I think I might have had something to do with them," he says.

As John Howard policies were accepted by governments, new problems arose. For instance, the branch in Winnipeg became dependent upon government grants and regulations. The Rev. Kim Warne, a founder of Winnipeg's Citizens' Committee on Correction, says: "They lost their freedom to be innovative."

For the society, it was like a tug-of-war in which the opposing team suddenly ran toward them. They had a choice: be absorbed by government services or find new directions. They chose new directions and, in their search for them, most branches are innovative again.

The early charity work is now broadened into a package program to help a man remake himself. "There was a time when a guy came in here asking for \$10, and we figured our job was to hassle him down to \$7.50," explains Toronto direc-

tor Dave Arbuckle, a burly, blond man who was a community officer with police until last December. "Now we try to give him what he needs and get him some survival skills too. Remember, this guy's probably never been part of the nine-to-five routine. So we get him into workshops -- like the videotape session where he can see himself the way a prospective employer sees him.

"Sure, we may have to set up a team of five or six volunteers to handle one guy's program. That's fine. Five volunteers have more experience and more community contacts than any one full-time professional."

Volunteers are another element in the new John Howard program. "Actually, it's picking up again the way we started," says Keith Couse. "For years, we abandoned responsibility to professionals, thinking they had the answers. But all along we knew in our guts they didn't." So increasingly, parole supervisors and family and jail visitors are volunteers.

Volunteers have many advantages over professionals. The biggest is their freedom to try new ways of doing things, because they don't have to protect their jobs, their bureaucracies, or their grants. Kirkpatrick goes so far as to suggest that all developments in penal reform have originated with volunteers. Probation, for example, started in 1841, with a Boston boot maker named John Augustus, who persuaded a court to release a young drunk into his custody. It took 37 years of work by Augustus and his friends before Massachusetts appointed a paid probation officer.

Often, offenders prefer volunteers, especially if the choice is between private volunteer and government staff. "An inmate has been in the hands of officialdom throughout his arrest, trial, and imprisonment," says Kirkpatrick. "By the time he gets out, he's had enough of that."

And volunteers can give more time to offenders, whether on parole or on probation. Most professional staffs carry huge caseloads. In Quebec, each full-time John Howard staff member is directly responsible for 50 to 60 men, says Derek Dempster, executive director in that province. In addition, the staff supervises about 40 others. Government staff carry similar caseloads. One Ontario probation officer admitted he looked after close to 120 offenders. "Often, I can't even remember who they are," he said. "When they come into the office, the first thing I ask is their name, so I can look up their file." He can give each case an average of only one hour a month. "To give anyone two hours a week would mean the guy would have to be in pretty serious trouble." But a volunteer, with only one case to supervise, might give more than that during just one evening a week.

And in spite of holding down his own job, the volunteer is usually more available. Full-time staff persons tend to keep evenings and weekends for private and family life. But that's when volunteers expect to work. Glen Hancock, national president, used to work with parolees himself. "You get a call at 3 a.m. from someone saying he's going to jump off the Angus L. MacDonald bridge into Halifax Harbour and goodbye. So you drive out there in your pyjamas and see what you can do." Or they'll call at the office, in the middle of the day. "I've had to drop everything and go help someone who's been hauled into court or something. But I find most firms are pretty supportive of this kind of community work."

Another new effort is halfway houses. "A lot of guys get pushed out onto the street when they aren't ready for it," says Toronto's Dave Arbuckle. And Glen Hancock adds: "A halfway house is a chance for ex-offenders to ease back into society. It gives them a home base where they don't have to face all those new decisions about a job and a place to live all at once." A half-dozen John Howard branches run halfway houses now.

Such houses now accommodate about 4,000 former inmates and are operated by many different organizations. The solicitor-general's department, which calls them community-based residential centres (CRCs), looks on them as a possible alternative to imprisonment. Deputy Solicitor-General Roger Tasse told a 1974 CRC conference in Vancouver: "Programs like this can deal with offenders without a substantial increase in risk to public safety, but with more humane and, hopefully, more effective results."

Alternatives to imprisonment -- that's the most daring new concept espoused by the John Howard Society. It may land them in hot water.

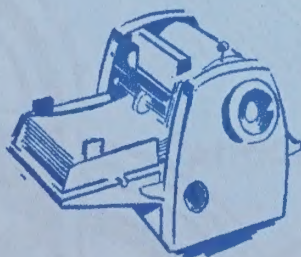
Behind the idea is the recognition that a prison record scars the inmate. There's more chance of rehabilitating him without the record and without the prison. Probation systems, for example, claim up to a 90 percent rehabilitation rate. Prison's lamentable performance is 15 percent. But even a person on probation has gone through a criminal trial and been sentenced. And a trial, as the Law Reform Commission of Canada pointed out, always has a winner or a loser.

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So the John Howard Society advocates two approaches: first, expunging the criminal record for good behavior when a person has been through a trial and conviction and, second, avoiding trial altogether whenever possible by what is called "diversion".

Criminology studies in Canada, Europe, and the United States, including the report of the President's Crime Commission, show that almost all repeat offences and reconvictions happen within five years. One study by a Toronto probation officer gives a specific figure: 98 percent of all recidivism occurs within five years after the end of any period of incarceration. So after that time, wiping out criminal records carries little more than a two-percent risk, which is, as the study continues, "probably no different than the general population of non-offenders." Expunging doesn't mean erasing -- that would be impossible even for official documents, let alone references in newspaper reports. It means that, after a certain time, official records would be sealed. No one could use a person's expunged record against him -- not a prospective employer, not the police, not a court prosecutor.

National President Glen Hancock is well aware of the problems of expunging. "The solicitor-general's department looks favorably on this," he says, "but the police object strenuously. They see it as impeding the process of the law. And the government has a problem with the public."

If public acceptance is lacking for expunging records, it's even less likely to be found for what correctional specialists call diversion. Both the John Howard Society and the Law Reform Commission advocate diversion -- something akin to probation without sentencing. "The person who's charged can meet with the persons who are wronged," explains Hancock. "A third party, such as a judge or perhaps the John Howard Society, mediates in working out an agreement.

The offender pays back the theft, or pays damages, or does community service -- whatever restitution is worked out. Then there may be supervision after, but the person involved doesn't have a criminal record."

Diversion is not a new idea. Policemen on the beat practised it for years. Instead of charging kids with trespassing for building a tree house on golf-course property, they told the kids to remove it. Universities and professional associations practised diversion by disciplining their own members without taking them to court. As the John Howard Society argues it, more use of diversion would help to end the lifelong stigma of a criminal record for a minor offence and would also cut down the present clogging of courts with petty cases. "Seventy-five percent of the inmates in our prisons are there for thefts of less than \$500," says Hancock, "not because they did something dangerous to society."

To help programs like diversion work, John Howard branches are launching one more innovation: public education. It could result in public reaction against John Howard work, for instead of trying to change the lives of society's outcasts, they're now trying to change the attitudes of society itself.

Citizens in some communities, for example, don't want former offenders back among them in halfway houses or rehabilitation programs. "I look on public education as a major role for us," says Glen Hancock. "We can help people accept new ideas so that they don't worry much about offenders living in the neighborhood."

That's why Keith Course teaches a criminology course and spends many evenings speaking to groups. "My family thinks my job is too full-time," he remarks. "But I think we have to learn now to look at the crime, not just the person who commits it. Why is it a crime? Why did it happen? Once we get behind the headlines, we may be able to do something about the causes of crime."



PLEA FROM INSIDE THE PEN

by JACK McCANN

This article was originally published in "The Vancouver Sun" on April 6, 1976. This was shortly after a hostage incident in the British Columbia Penitentiary. It is representative of the conditions that existed at that time. Ed.

The writer of this article is a prisoner in the B. C. Penitentiary, where he is serving 22 years on robbery and escape charges. He has spent nearly 1,500 days in solitary confinement there, and was largely responsible for the Federal Court of Canada action that led to such confinement (as practiced in the B. C. Pen) being declared cruel and unusual punishment. What follows is his view of the situation in the Pen.

A new and horrendous dimension has been added to the rigors of life in the British Columbia Penitentiary. The guards feel it is they that are being punished instead of the inmates. This feeling was brought forth quite poignantly after the most recent hostage taking incident.

But are they really being punished? Or is it not just another attempt by a selection of guards who are seizing the opportunity to cloud the essential issues of the latest hostage incident. It seems that every time a serious situation has developed within these walls, the security staff has always sought the resignation of the director. Yet, as anyone who has any common sense can tell you, the direc-



tor of any penal institution is only as good as the staff that works under him.

In reality, the general staff of the British Columbia Penitentiary leave a lot to be desired in the eyes of the public. There have been so many cover-ups, half-truths, non-truths, and deliberate attempts to keep the public misinformed of what goes on in here that they seem to no longer care what they are told.

The latest issues put forth by the guards evolve around what they seem to consider as "inmate programs." They feel that too much money is being spent on the welfare of the inmates and too little on staff training programs, and

this issue is a very cruel joke upon the inmates at the B.C. Penitentiary. While the staff clamor about the keeping of an inmate in here being \$15,000 a year, the truth is that little more than \$3,500 a year is actually spent on any inmate in the B.C. Penitentiary.

There are only three rehabilitation programs in here that are of any value to the inmates upon release. The total inmate participation in these programs numbers about 70 inmates out of a population of 450. The rest of the inmates do very little except serve their time. Where do all the other often quoted expenses go? And for what purpose are they used? The only logical and truthful answer to these questions is that they are used for staff purposes and all in the name of security. The facts are that in the last year and a half the Canadian Penitentiary Service has poured more dollars into the B.C. Pen to appease the security staff than anywhere else in Canada. This can be shown in the thousands upon thousands of dollars spent on many useless and ineffective security renovations such as stringing wire fences and cages all through the institution, hiring outside contractors and laborers to do the work that was once self serviced by the inmates.

All of this and much more has been done to alleviate the fears of hostage taking incidents. A little known fact is that until recent years there was very seldom any thought among the inmates regarding the taking of hostages to achieve any of their goals. It was the security staff themselves who put the idea to the inmates. It was in a well publicized program in 1973 that the security staff expressed their ideas and fears over hostage takings. Until that time it was hardly ever thought of by inmates. After sowing the seeds of thought, the security people's fears were realized.

But why? Were the reasons given for these incidents truly and truthfully explored and weighed? The security people definately gave their reasons of what they thought were the reasons, but what of the inmates reasons? What drives a person to the desperation of having to take a hostage when he knows the probable consequences of such an act? Surely the reasons that the inmate gives should also be honestly weighed. Obviously there has to be something wrong within the penitentiary system itself and not just within the persons who feel the need to take such drastic steps.

Plain indifference towards the factual needs of inmates by the majority of the staff and the continuous infighting among themselves over positions, power, promotions, and bureaucratic bungling and incompetence have eroded the penitentiary system (and especially the B.C.Pen) to the point where hopelessly mismanaged bureaucracies cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in wasted money. In order to rectify the conditions and situations that keep arising in the B.C. Penitentiary, a lot less emphasis is going to have to be put forth by the staff to lessen their will to power and the paranoid delusions that they have shown. When they work only to appease their own sense of authority and power over us who are under them, it is no wonder that we lack any respect towards them. We are deprived of our own self-respect, are offered no chance of initiative, and are filled with complete frustration over our environment and the baseless rules that govern us.

Changes have to be made immediately in order that we are provided with a sense of purpose so we are not completely alienated from society and surrounded by a total sense of helplessness. To deprive us of our deliberations or our plans and to arbitrate our decisions and thoughts can do nothing but create tension, dissatisfaction and eventually bitterness towards the society that condones such treatment. When you add the people in power positions who themselves are careless and neglectful of those who are under their power, there can never be any alleviation of the stresses and tensions of the lesser people involved, we the inmates. A system that has always failed in correcting others, continues to frustrate its own efforts to correct itself.

To sum up the latest hostage taking incident, some real hard questions of why it happened ought to be asked. Not the usual red herring questions of how it happened or how the inmates got the knives or the many other "how" questions. The "how" is self-evident and explainable. But "why"? Why were the inmates so desperate that they put their own lives in danger? Why the need to go to such lengths just to seek a few changes?

In the aftermath of the latest incident are these questions being asked and their solutions sought? No, they are most definately not! Instead it is the same usual penitentiary procedure of creating a lot of extra smoke where there are no fires, in the hope that the coals will be fanned into a greater issue of riot and mayhem.

The penitentiary staff have told the public that all inmate routine has been returned to normal when this is not the case at all. The inmate population has, for the most part, been kept confined to their cells. Their meals are being cooked by shop supervisors and served as late as 7 p.m. All inmate work locations are shut down and all recreational and visiting privileges are severely restricted. But instead of the public being told this, they are lied to once again. Another case of one story being given to cover-up the true story.

The joke, cruel as it is, is on society. Either you start caring about us while we are in here, or worry about us when we get out.

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SPEAKIN' OUT

The following speech was presented at the annual conference of the Atlantic Provinces Corrections and Criminology Association in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in late 1975. The speaker was the Honourable David McDonald (Egmont). Ed.

A SECOND RECENT SERIES OF PUBLIC EVENTS RELATES TO MEETINGS OF THE CANADIAN Police Association and Prison Guards. These have been widely reported, certainly in the major urban press. In the instance of the Police Association, it called for the immediate resignation of the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General, on the basis that they should offer themselves in by-elections, running on their platform for the abolition of capital punishment. I am sure the Association's belief is that the public generally feels there must be a re-establishment of capital punishment as a deterrent to violent crime in general and to acts involving murder, in particular.

Actually, almost all the factual information which has been gathered in the last decade or two with respect to jurisdictions which have abolished capital punishment, indicates that the abolition of capital punishment has been in no way a stimulation to greater crimes of violence or murder. Or, to put it in the converse form, the retention of capital punishment by a number of similar countries has not, in any way, shape or form, diminished capital crimes. The capital punishment debate in this country has been a continuing and heated one. It is almost always based on assumptions rather than proven facts. It is important, as well, that the capital punishment debate not be seen in isolation from general attitudes related to the criminal justice system. That is why the simultaneous meeting of prison guards and their recommendations are also important. The guards, during their consultation, suggested that there should be a return to corporal punishment and that there should be a suspension of family visits -- in general, a cracking down on the punishment side of those serving time in penal institutions. Again, the assumption obviously is that where we have failed in our criminal justice system is in not maintaining, or even increasing, the amount of public punishment which can be used in order to achieve some measure of correction or rehabilitation for the individuals directly concerned, as well as serve as a continuing public deterrent for potential criminal behaviour.

To my mind, the parallel meetings of Police and prison guards are depressing indications that we have not moved very far in this country with respect to an understanding of how we adequately protect society or effectively rehabilitate the offender. While there may be specific individuals serving as guards or policemen who see beyond the punishment syndrome, a wide measure of agreement seems to exist that "more punishment, not less, is the answer." And surely, the long history of the evolution of the social order with respect to our own cultural traditions is completely opposed to this concept and conclusion. Indeed, it is my very firm belief that the reason we have not achieved more success with recidivism and rehabilitation generally is the fact that we have been essentially punishment-oriented. There has been at least a "de facto," if not a "de jure" opinion that criminals can only be rehabilitated successfully, that is, made safe for society, through punishment. Yet, the prisons are surely filled with individuals who are the best evidence possible that such a system is not working, does not work and has not worked.

It is my understanding that our criminal justice system exists to (1) protect society, (2) deter criminal behaviour, (3) punish offenders, and once I believed, (4) rehabilitate offenders -- something I now recognize just is not so. In spite of numerous Royal Commission Reports, committee investigations, independent findings, we have not learned the lesson that the present system, which is mainly punitive, produces puny results and is, at the same time, tremendously expensive. Most serious of all, regarding society generally, it offers no long-term protection of the individual citizen. In the final analysis, if our basic concern is the long-term protection of society, we must concur that the punishment motif, which is basic to our present prison system, has failed, and an increasing investment in that system is one doomed to even greater failure.

What really is the problem? Are we still not sure of the two basic questions: "What are the causes of crime?" and "How should society deal with them?" If, indeed there has been a recent up-swing in more violent crimes, perhaps that can be interpreted through the increasingly serious situation with respect to economic questions, i.e. the number of pressures it creates on middle and low-income families and individuals with respect to the basic concerns of food, employment, and housing, rather than an expressed or growing disregard for the law itself. Or, if there is a disregard for the law, perhaps we need to look more closely at the reasons behind it. It could be, as I am sure has been suggested many times during this conference, that some of the laws are outdated, unenforceable and undesirable in today's world; or, the law is severest in its application to those who are not involved in the process of law-making, and who do not believe in the standard it is constructed to protect; or, the law comes down most frequently on those who need and want and cannot possibly get, but are led to believe they have a right to expect; and so on. The core values in society can and must be supported by our laws, but consensus can usually be reached only in matters regarding life and limb. It is well known that over 60% of our prison population is made up of those serving terms for crime versus property, and more often than not, inexpensive property. To boot, they frequently are grappling with an alcohol problem. Should they be there? Is that the place those types of problems are best coped with? And what of the victim? When the accused is in jail, the victim enjoys the dubious pleasure of knowing the offender is being punished through loss of freedom and the many ills of incarceration, but is still out whatever it was he or she lost. Add to that the victim's present knowledge that (1) there is an enormous annual cost in maintaining an offender in prison, and (2) the offender's behaviour is being minimally modified in prison and he is just as apt to do "it" again when he gets out, and we must question whether it isn't time we changed tack.

An overwhelming number of so-called crimes are committed by people who have had, usually from early years of youth, a history of delinquent behaviour. They are almost in a situation of being human ping-pong balls bouncing out of hostile environment on the street with which they cannot cope, into an equally hostile environment behind bars. Both situations tend to distort further any realistic perception by the individual or his ability to adapt his behaviour into that which we would normally describe as socially functional.

There is another brand of crime that is not usually considered, but may be increasing somewhat in our own time. This is the form of criminal behaviour which has, by its very nature, a societal definition. These are the individuals who challenge the very concepts and attitudes which make a specific social order. Often, these people are regarded as politically dangerous or mentally unstable. Occasionally, history rewards them by regarding them as being ahead of their time. Certainly, as we pass through a period of great economic stress, these who would be critical of a system which has in it certain elements of economic and social injustice, or recognize the opportunities for the loss of basic, human rights, or criticize a value system which may be anti-human or anti-environmental in some aspects, could be, and are, considered as indulging in a form of criminal behaviour.

I think for our purposes, however, we recognize that the first descriptions of criminal behaviour are more likely the substance of that with which we have to deal, understand and positively respond to.

In recent years, we have given a good deal of thought and some action to the Parole and rehabilitation aspect of those who have served time in prisons. We know that it is dreadfully important for there to be some transition for an inmate in order that he effectively integrate himself into society. The sad fact is, in many instances, we are merely trying to undo much of the increased anti-social and dysfunctional behaviour which the inmate has acquired while in custody. Certainly, from that viewpoint, I have to ask myself the question, is our criminal justice system self-perpetuating? Are we still at the stage where much of our system, from delinquents on up, is a training ground where we take delinquents, who are in their early stages of hostility, and by exposing them to a more sophisticated and hardened world of criminal and anti-social behaviour, turn them into permanent, abnormal and unrealistic individuals? I think this is a difficult question for individuals who live and work within such a system to raise, but ideally, if our criminal justice is functioning effectively and positively, we should be attempting to put ourselves out of business.

The use of certain kinds of rehabilitation programmes in prisons and penitentiaries are in themselves commendable. But there are not enough of them. They are often piecemeal projects which do not equip inmates with any realistic or sale-

PETITION

Unrest At Springhill

by TEDDY CARR

During the evening of August 11, 1976, the Inmate Committee of Springhill Institution spoke to the general population as they waited for the movie to begin in the Auditorium. The topic that was discussed was the lack of support for the Committee, and it was clearly stated that if the population did not want to stand behind the Committee, don't come complaining.

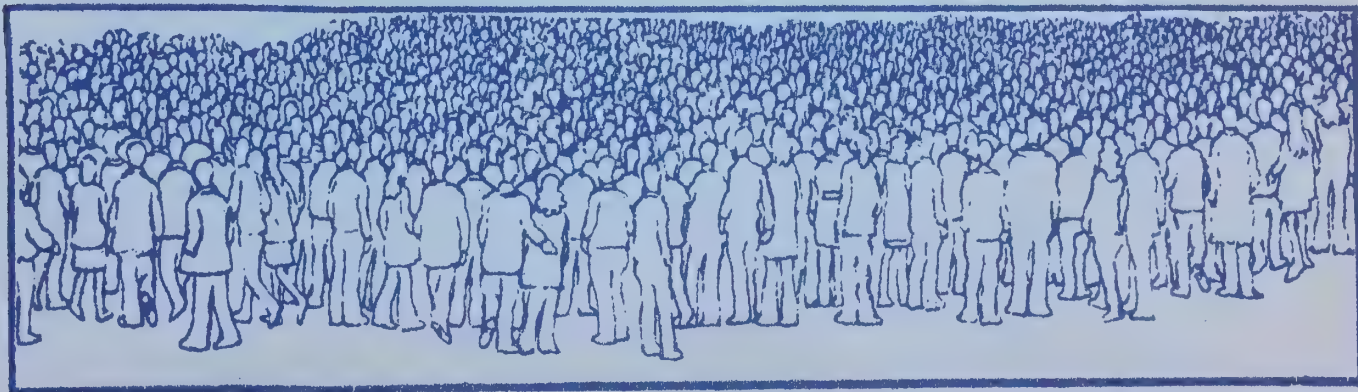
In the following days much talk among the inmates took place in the yard and units as a result of the movie night announcement, and many things filtered back to the Committee. On Friday, August 13, a special meeting was called by the chairman, B. DeBaie, at which time it was decided for each member to mingle amongst the population to find out what were the crucial problems of the times. During the weekend, a list of fourteen items was put together, rewritten and typed with three copies made.

The Committee then met again early Sunday evening, at which time the document received approval. Each member agreed to circulate the three copies amongst the inmates in each unit so that everyone would know what was included, and those who wished to could place their names on attached sheets. There was approximately two hundred and forty names, very nearly seventy-five percent of the population at that time, when it was turned over to the Administration on Tuesday morning, August 17. One copy was given to Mr. Gibbs, the Acting Director of Springhill Institution. Another copy was mailed to Mr. C.G. Rutter, Director of Inmate Affairs at the Commissioner of Penitentiaries office in Ottawa. That copy eventually reached the Commissioner. The third copy was kept in the Committee files.

The Inmate Committee had a meeting with the Administration on August 18, but since only one day had passed since they had received the petition, the Administration did not feel prepared to discuss it at length. The conditions which led to the creation of the petition were talked over, and a few topics were touched lightly upon. It was agreed that the next meeting, on September 1, would be devoted to the petition and all the problems included.

The petition itself was a very emotional document, in that it covered many subjects which were felt very strongly by many people in the population. In this way it was meant to convey their feelings. Springhill has been a rather quiet prison; it very rarely has any activity like strikes, riots, or hostage incidents as have become common in the maximum security prisons of Canada, nor are there many grievances coming from here. This may reflect that things aren't all that bad here. Really it meant that for too long all these problems had been simmering within the population and were just waiting for a means to express themselves.

Now I would like to present the petition to you one section at a time, including after each section the comments and response from the Administration. Most of the response came at the meeting on September 1, when the top brass of the institution, including Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Childs, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Lees and Mr. Allaby were there.



Introduction: (Petition)

The following is a list of areas that the Inmate Population of this Institution have become very frustrated, bitter, and uneasy about. Some of this is due to the very long time it takes to get decisions and even then there is very little change for improvement and a reflection of the drastic high level of concern to the population.

The Committee has decided to draft up this list of areas for submission to the Administration, so that they will become fully aware of how the population feels, which should be evidenced by the number of signatures which will appear upon this draft.

Family Visiting Day: (Petition)

The Christmas Family Visiting Day is not going to be permitted this year because of budget cut-backs. The population finds it hard to reconcile government spending reported in newspapers and on television, and with the apparent waste here in the institution and weaseling for overtime by the staff. To cut back this important social event at this time seems unjustified when these other things go on. The General Welfare Fund helps pay a portion of the Family Day expenses anyhow and they only have two per year. Christmas Family Visiting Day is a very important thing to many guys in the population who are unable to get home to see their families at Christmas time. All previous Family Visiting Days have been very successful

and it seems unfair to stop this program when there havn't been any serious problems.

Family Visiting Day: (Inmate Committee Meeting)

The problem here is cost of overtime for extra staff required to operate the Family Visiting Day program as it has been done in the past. There is a possibility of having an altered program with various restrictions which would not require the extra staff, and the Inmate Committee will work on this and submit a proposal to the Administration outlining this.

Hockey Games On TV: (Petition)

It has been stated that there could be no late-lock-up on nights during the upcoming Hockey series due to budget cut backs. Hockey is a most important Canadian sport and inmate morale is closely involved with championship hockey. This is a small request, only an hours time on the occaissional day, and if this cannot be granted the effect on the population will be tremendous. If all that is going to happen each year is this type of thing, then it is a strong indication that the Federal Government is unable to afford a penal system that is of a humane nature. If this is the case then they should let the men go home instead of keeping them under such conditions to only be released some day in a much worse deteri-

continued on page 23



**SUBURBAN
DEPARTMENT
STORES**

AMHERST
Cumberland
County Fair Mall

YARMOUTH
76 Starrs Road

SYDNEY
Sydney
Shopping
Centre

TRURO
Fundy Trail
Shopping Centre

HALIFAX
Bayers Road
Shopping Centre

NEW GLASGOW
Aberdeen Mall

NEW MINAS
County
Fair
Mall

BRIDGEWATER
Bridgewater
Shopping Plaza

BEDFORD
Sunnyside
Shopping
Plaza

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHN'S
Torbay Road Mall

NEW BRUNSWICK

MONCTON
Moncton Mall

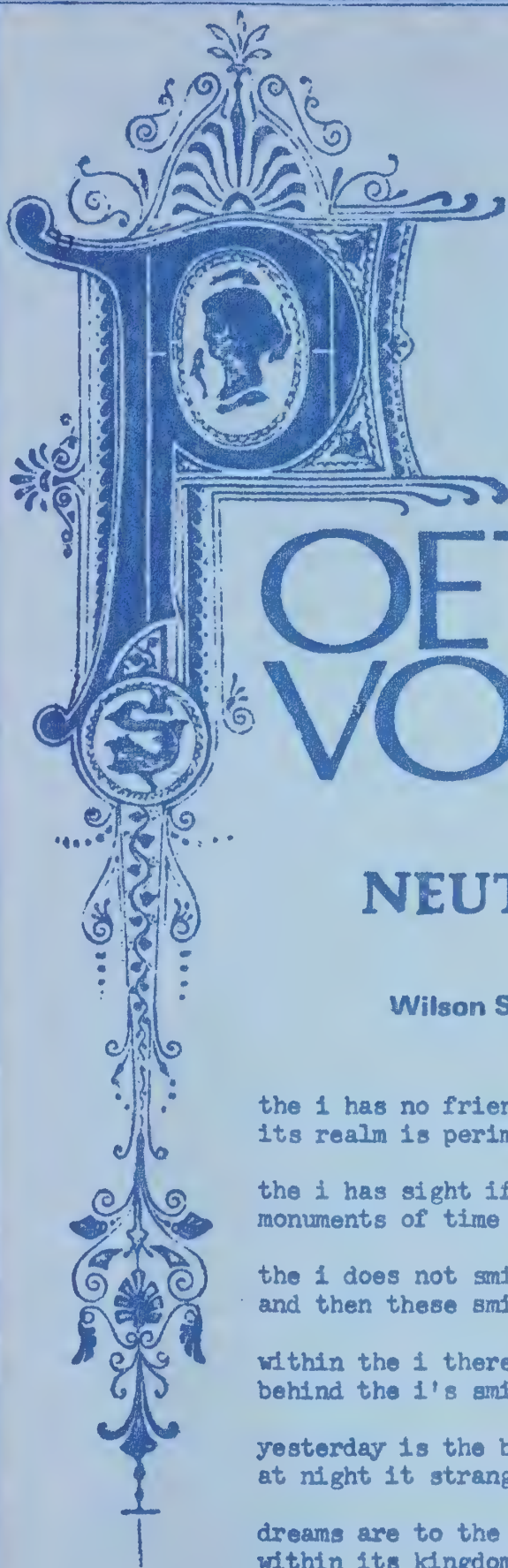
ST. JOHN
Parkway Mall

FREDERICTON
Fredericton Mall

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POETIC VOICES

NEUTRAL

Wilson Stapleton

the i has no friends; the i has no enemies
its realm is perimeters eroded by scars

the i has sight if only to mimic its scorn
monuments of time were once erected in its kingdom

the i does not smile except at its borders
and then these smiles are facsimiles of smiles

within the i there is a mockery of strangeness
behind the i's smiles there are ghosts of laughter

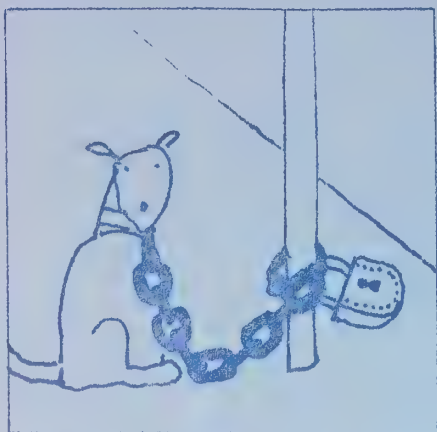
yesterday is the bitter reality of i
at night it strangles memory with sleep

dreams are to the i dwarves brought to serve
within its kingdom dreams are carved into words

the i is told of the promises lying outside its perimeters
yet what good is belief if seen in another's i

the i waits for death as it has waited for life
the army, too, waits, as armies have been known to wait

and when the i dies will love attend its funeral
the i has no friends; the i has no enemies



EARL FLYNN

i remember Earl Flynn
 who
 because he wouldnt like guns
 and couldnt stand pain
 was dared by the boys
 to pull the trigger
 and graze the mane
 and who later
 cried as he stumbled
 gun in hand through
 dark woods in rain
 just wanting to put
 the poor animal
 out of its misery

bernell macdonald

MONTREAL FROM ALTITUDE 737

This city never sleeps.
 Even on a Monday
 and at unlikely hours
 the boulevards buzz
 with drunks and junkies,
 lovers reluctant to return
 to separate homes,
 characters of dubious intention
 lurking in doorways smoking or leering,
 and faceless people out to taste the night life.

From high above we watch
 a million lights wink knowingly
 making even the run-down sections
 look romantic
 reflecting glamour on the water --
 you can't smell the river
 from here.

Out there
 behind the neons
 virginities are lost
 or reputations made
 abortionists ply their gruesome trade
 and underworld pawns are shot
 in crowded bars amid
 patrons and waiters who see nothing.

Montreal
 you are not for the squeamish
 yet your strange idiosyncrosies
 nourish a million people
 who thrill to your sound
 and odour.

Magnetic siren --
 little wonder the French and English
 fight over you
 and neither will relinquish possession
 though you betray us both and we know it.
 Sometimes I need your anonymity
 and will love and hold you the whole night
 until I return

to the suburbs
 tomorrow.

sheila martindale



IN STITCHES

". . . henceforth there would be a whole heap of delicate feelings whose fingers and hands I should hack away to prevent them from climbing into my heart and wrecking it."

Andre Gide

"Il faut couper la racine."

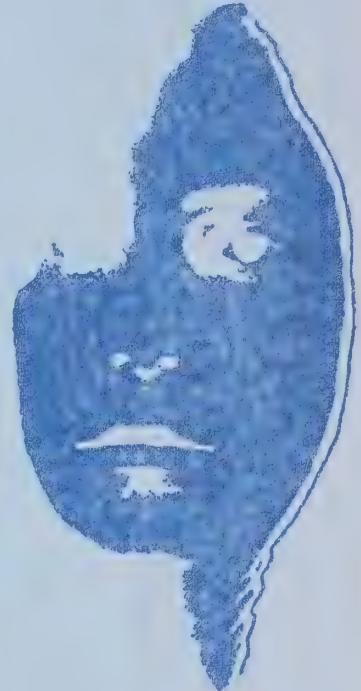
George Braque

I examined them closely,
sticking up from sewn flesh
like miniature porcupine quills,
a quick black thrill
in its nimbus of purple,
my black and blue galaxy,
fading too fast.

At the edge of the sink I unveiled
the soft inside spot marked by barbed wire
where a lump was dug up from my terra cotta
like an archeological find.

Just on the borderline
of thigh and knee,
the thin red line
doomed to whiten;
a part of me.

Between infinite possibilities
what's the difference of lump and line?
A knife can only cut so far
before the bone,
and as the surgeon said,
en route to my deliverance,
"I'm making you a lovely scar."



betsy hellman

LIMBO



Sucked backwards and round the bend,
train lurching
under strange networks of pole-wires
like radar stations on Mars,
I stand at the back door of the Philly Express
where a sign warns me:

WATCH YOUR STEP.



For forty minutes we sat in the dark,
coldsweating it in the last car
while the conductor put flares on the track
to ward off collision.
Dull red lights glared through the windows
and outside in December the trees were dead.

People were smiling,
checking wristwatches,
joking about "the delay up ahead",
with nothing to say and nothing to do
in a trainfull of shades,
a trainfull of limbo.

WHEN

the rain comes hard . . .
my emotions become fluid agitators
and a deep urgency swells in my heart
but my rut is hopeless
my arms are empty

THE

my lips are lonely
memories slip past
and i feel a tenseness in my loin
static memories take form . . .
i try to sleep . . .

RAIN

your breath crawls up my back
warm and soothing
i feel the tender burning of your eyes
traveling through my fro
your lips are at my neck
the rain falls gently now . . .

COMES

my body responds with ecstatic expectation
i breathe in deeply smiling pleausurably
an esoteric sigh escapes my undetermined restraint
your fingers tender delightful knowing
dance down my chest
and pirouettes leisurely at my navel
then on to caress my lower torso
nervous and starved of foreign touch
ooo! so good . . .
so good . . .

gently...

i turn to kiss you
to unleash my passion of 1243 lonely nights
your lips are parted . . . purring
fiery impelling lust . . .
inviting me to explore your african garden paradise
i reach to behold you
the rain comes hard again . . .

your eyes are fireworks
but it seems that you are moving away from my want
(my need)

thunder shouts
i reach again
my arms have desire but cannot enfold you . . .

the rain comes gently again . . .
a mystic magnetism draws us nearer
i reach for you . . .
you reach for me . . .

my hands strike the wall
cold yellow & humid
paint under my nails
darkness in my heart
a silhouette . . . the bars against the walls

IT'S A DREAM!
A DAMN DREAM!

memories . . . static memories keep past
like desert winds swiftly they vanish . . .
the rain comes gently . . .
my heart soaks . . .
then sags.



oscar nelson

Their voices speak;

like echoes
from a foreign land
their voices ring
with promise,
like shadows
from the distant sky
their power falls
on every head.

WORDS

They speak of peace
yet
sound their battle cry;

They speak of peace
yet
rape it of its beauty;

John D. Sangster

They speak of love
yet
say nothing . . .

They're mad,
They're fools,

We shall not listen



I think perhaps to be a tree
with autumn leaves to cover me
is quite a worthy prayer.

Then too I'm sure it would best
to have a robin build a nest
amid my branches there.

I'd stand erect
beneath the sky,
I would not care
if I should die,
Nor would I ever
Need to cry,
If I could be a tree.

OF FREEDOM

Of limb and bark
of leaf and sap,
away,
away from manly trap.

Alone to be of Godly bliss
Alone to taste the sweetest kiss
Of wind and gentle falling rain
perhaps I'll never wake again
from this
a perfect dream

THE SPRINGHILL JAYCEES: CON WALK '76

by BLAIR DEBAIE



One of the best Jaycee projects done to date consisted of six members of the unit walking from the institution to the township of Truro. The actual planning started early in February of this year. The walkers were dressed in old style convict uniforms and their ankles were shackled in chains.

The members who were participating are: Doug Dennis as 1001 Digger Doug, Lorimer Lockhart as 1002 Chain Gang Kid, Max Babineau as 1003 Dirty Dan, Blair DeBaie as 1004 Sleepy Bam Bam, Stephen Blue as 1005 Solitary Timer, and Paul Crockett as 1006 Six Man.

The distance they walked was 83 miles and the money that will be raised will go to the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Big Brothers Association. The pledges and money are still coming in at this time so we don't have a final total to report now.

It appears that the old timer, 1001 Digger Doug, has a strong set of feet because he was leading the group almost all of the way. 1002 Chain Gang Kid did a great job, what with the terrible condition his feet were in, but he made it all the way just fine. The feet on 1005 Solitary Timer were even worse but he made it all the way too. 1003 Dirty Dan and 1006 Six Man had the greatest deal of problems with their feet and needed to have some repairs and even some assistance getting into town at the end

of the walk. 1004 Sleepy Bam Bam didn't have feet problems but his muscles were aching pretty bad and he wanted to go to sleep all the time. Sleepy Bam Bam was filling in as medic bandaging feet and mechanic repairing shackles until everything was just plain worn out. All the walkers were very impressed by the friendliness of all the people they met during the walk.

The Amherst Jaycees and Truro Jaycees were of great assistance on both ends of the walk and we would like to thank them all very much. Many of the Jaycee units in the Atlantic Region have helped along with the Atlantic Region Executive which we are all very thankful for. Especially our regards go out to Mr. Duncan Conrad, Mr. Bernie Kervin and everyone at the Dartmouth and Halifax Jaycee Units: Mr. Andrew Crook, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Mental Health Association and Carol Goddard, Executive Director of Big Brothers-Big Sisters, were on hand when we arrived in Truro. Both of their organizations provided a great deal of help with this project which we are very grateful for.

Pledges are still coming in and it will be a while yet before the project is all finished but we feel the project was a great success already. All the members have the self satisfaction of knowing that they were able to achieve what they set out to do.

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POYLS OF WISDOM

by Parahamster Donut and
The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Dindon
(On Vacation In Cape Breton)



Greetings Bruders:

The day of summerfest has come and gone, leaving the pleasant memory of chanting and other togetherness. Especially in the evening when certain devotees were awarded high honour and recognition for the great heights they reached in the festivities. The months of purity are fast approaching and the brotherhood is silently preparing for the long night.

While in deep meditation in daze past it occurred to a shared 100 watter that now, in the health food section of your local department store, one can find refined peanut oil. This is a very dangerous substance. There are many drug addicts in this country whose deranged passion for an altered consciousness has driven them to peanut butter abuse! This innocent looking liquid has the fiendish properties which cause many diverse afflictions, just a few of which are: Crossing eyes, runny nose, an inability to concentrate on matters of importance, bad breath, carbuncles, and warts. With the easy availability of this oil many of our young people will flee the comfort of their homes to live in squalid dives, stealing from the elderly and molesting small rodents to satisfy their unquenchable thirst for depravity.

Our only hope to rescue these youths lies in our ability to organize and maintain an effective mazola maintenance program and to hunt down the wicked distributors and manufacturers of this vile stuff. No punishment would be too painful or degrading for these dealers in suffering. I would suggest that, when captured, these types be force fed massive quantities of banana skins and corn husks. That would fix them.

For our monthly exercise, devotees are asked to stare fixedly at immobile objects, ignoring the tears that come, staring, staring until true focus is realized, and the object of your gaze springs to life and makes you fall on your butt.

* PROFUNDITY OF DA MUNT *

....." no talking to the adjustees ".....

DUHHHHHHH



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able skill. As well, very few programmes of responsibility have been instituted in which the inmate has to operate as he would to stay on the right side of the law in the street: i.e. earn a salary, pay for benefits, insurance, and board, and save... just generally learn how to manage money a bit.

There are positive programmes like Jaycees which improve an inmate's social and public-speaking abilities and give him a much greater opportunity to interact with the community -- another huge resource which we are beginning to tap and must continue to do so on a much larger scale. However, on far too many occasions, the positive programmes are more than counteracted by the general attitudes and atmosphere which exist within the institution. Even those of us who are primarily concerned with a criminal justice system, must retain some measure of judgment and objectivity in order to assess constantly our own social values with the question "Do they represent human betterment and optimum social good?" Moreover, we need to do our assessment together; the lawmakers, the courts, the policemen, the correctional officers, professionals and the public to find a common goal towards which we can aim with our penal system and around which we can construct our programmes.

I wonder how much we are learning from those who are presently identified as the criminal in the system. In a number of instances, it seems that they have really, in spite of the kind of system that has been created, discovered much about the system generally, which is valuable in terms of constructive reform. As one rather cynical criminologist observed, "It appears the less we interfere with offenders, the more successful they are in coping with the outside." Of course, I do not agree with that completely, and he did not mean it to be taken at face value, for the thought that perhaps some of the best ideas come from them, and that we should avoid including many individuals in the criminal justice system in the first place, might be a good building block. Some of the most constructive suggestions made in recent years about improvements in our system have come from those who have been, in some sense of the word, victims of it.

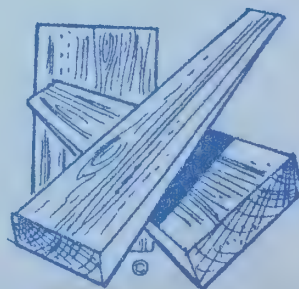
I read in the paper yesterday of an Arts Show at Cowansville Institution. One inmate is quoted as saying, "There are a lot of things we could do, but if the public isn't ready for them we won't get anywhere, and everybody loses in the end." Its time we got ready.

HALLIDAYS

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Punishment which is merely state administered violence achieves little but deepening the amount of alienation and hostility between the individual and society. But making "the punishment fit the crime," to quote the words of Gilbert and Sullivan, brings up the possibility of a form of protection and retribution. Punishment which is educational and corrective can do much, both to compensate the victim and to rehabilitate the criminal.

What is the alternative of a punishment system? I do think that, since much of the early delinquency relates to the lack of an adequate self-image and a positive feeling of one's own relationship to the community, the elements of counseling, concern, caring and compassion surely must be the basic aspects of any kind of preventive programme. Alternatives to the de-socializing approach presently used should be well worth considering, in as much that it would assist people to find constructive roles for themselves.

A basic deterrent for crime is that of detection. This is where we can explore, a great deal more means, that might be taken by police officers in order to prevent the re-occurrence of crime. For it has been convincingly shown that many criminals are not aware of potential results of criminal acts in terms of state response. It is clear that respect for a system which has successful means of detection can serve as a useful deterrent. An example; in the last few years, the City of Ottawa has set up an experimental section whose officers have become more and more convinced of the value of prevention. In one project, they approached the community association of a fairly wealthy district which had been experiencing a rash of burglaries. The officers asked the homeowners to make a record of the serial numbers of all their valuable goods or to mark them with their social insurance number. Then they suggested the citizens put stickers on the corners of accessible windows, advertising that they had participated in this labelling effort. Signs were placed on various entry streets to the district, advertising what has been done. The police used the media to explain to any potential criminals that this area was under close surveillance, that the goods would all be traceable, therefore hard to dispose of, and what penalties were involved. That community suffered over 250 break-ins over the twelve months previous to the campaign by the police and citizens. The following year they did not have ONE. Incredible. And simple, and comparatively inexpensive. This is just one example of policemen using their imagination to come up with schemes in which citizens can participate.

Finally, I think we must recognize that times of serious social and economic unrest can, in themselves, significantly contribute to so-called criminal behaviour. It also could increase the frustration and natural detachment of the public in dealing with such a phenomenon. We will not satisfactorily solve that problem by turning back the clock. It can only be met by constructive approach to the basic cause, expanded explanations to the public that we all serve, and extended programmes including the community in as many aspects as possible.

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SHULIE LAKE INSTITUTION

by TED SYKES

A new woods camp was started in the Apple River region which should prove to be very successful. I am one of the first to arrive here so I have been asked to fill you in on what's happening.

We are housed in trailers which are very modern. There are two sleeping trailers, a dining trailer, recreation and library trailer, and a supply trailer, not to mention an administration trailer. In the sleeping trailers, there are two men in each room and ten men in each trailer.

The staff consists of Dave Chitty, Reg Reed, Chuck Winters, Charley Mahoney, Benny Legere, George Welton, Allen Dill, and Bill Merriam. They are all putting a great effort into making this camp work and function as a group rather than a bunch of screws and cons. They have done away with the names inmate and guard and replaced them with resident and staff. It still means the same thing but we all have to admit that it is a start and an improvement. There are shopping and fishing trips for us as a means of relaxation, and as I understand it there are other things planned for the future.

I believe that it is right to give credit where credit is due so I think we all owe a vote of thanks to Wes Stevens who has shown outstanding effort in the kitchen. He is there from sunrise to sundown preparing great food for us plus a snack every night at 8:30. So to Wes we all say thank you!

Under the visiting program here, visits are allowed every night on weekdays from after supper to 9:00 and on the weekends all day from morning to 9:00 at night.



The work program is as follows: one week is spent in the classroom where felling and limbing, first aid, safety, and machine operation are taught. Then it is off to the woods for on the job training. The instructors of this course are Warren Zwicker, Keith Miller, John Orr, and Harry Sutherland.

The first twelve weeks is called Phase 1 in which time you can pay for your equipment without paying any board. After twelve weeks you enter Phase 2 in which you pay board to the tune of \$36.00 per week.

All in all this camp can prove to be a good go if a man can work in a team and is willing to put some effort into it. As most of you are aware, the last Apple River project had many problems so we are trying our best to make this place a little better for the guys who will be coming here in the future. I hope that some of you can make it here because at least here you have a chance to be your own man!

Oh, our committee consists of Eile Billo and Andy Brown who are doing a fine job.

Ecology Action Centre

Forrest Building
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Phone: (902) 422-4311

PETITION continued from page 12

orated frame of mind then when they entered the Institution.

Hockey Games On TV: (ICM)

For the present Canada Cup Series there will be late-lock-up on September 11, 13, 15, and 17 if necessary as was stated at the last meeting. The Administration will consider doing the same for the NHL season games on Saturday nights this fall. (This was granted at a later date.)

Inmate Pay: (Petition)

This area has the Population very frustrated because they have not received a pay raise that is anywhere in proportion to the raise in prices. Tobacco has gone from \$1.30 to \$1.75 and coffee has gone from \$2.10 to \$2.85 just recently. This is a large increase for men who aren't making much to begin with. This along with talk of another increase in the price of tobacco is causing a whole lot of uneasiness. The frustration that the men are feeling in this area is extremely hard to bear with, and it is entirely unnecessary that they should have to. The prospect of a revamped pay system is a carrot held before the population. What is needed is some increase at the present time to help balance the scale between costs and pay.

Inmate Pay: (ICM)

Mr. Gibbs sent a letter to the Regional Director on August 18, 1976, suggesting that inmate pay be increased now to help cover recent price increases. It was reported that the Petition has reached the Commissioner's office and is being duly considered there. There was no date given as to when the new pay system will go into effect.

Communication Gap: (Petition)

There is far too much delay in action being taken on anything such as requests, TLA's, CA's, paroles, etc. The

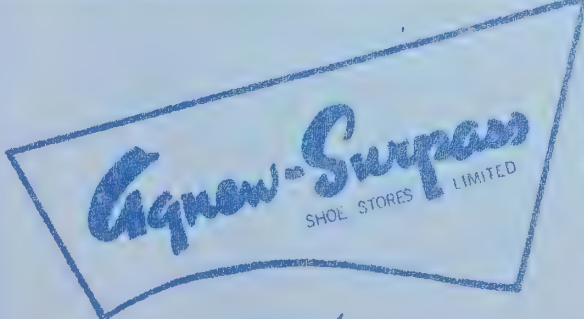
technology today provides rapid communications systems, but the staff often refuse to put those systems into action. Days, weeks, and even months will go by with no effort on the part of the staff members who feel that an inmate should not make him get out of his chair, away from the TV, card game etc. This is a daily reality here in Springhill and is a large contribution to the great deal of frustration and mental torture in this area through negligence. It even takes an unnecessary long time to have Trust Fund forms processed. There have always been weak reasons given about this, such as being under-staffed and so forth. After viewing and experiencing the staff, we doubt if they could survive in a free enterprise system. The welfare roles would be heavily loaded because they just couldn't make the grade there.

Communication Gap: (ICM)

There have been some problems recently with the Parole Service offices not forwarding to the Institution a copy of a Community Assessment. Instead the CA was just going on file in the Truro office. The problem has been straightened out with all the Parole Service offices in the area. It is normal procedure for a CA to take six weeks to two months to prepare, because time is required to make the necessary personal interviews and reports. It may be possible to have a representative of the Parole Service here at an Inmate Committee meeting in the future sometime. Regarding requests and other Institutional paperwork, everyone is accountable for his actions. If there is no answer after 14 days, take it to the LU2 or Mr. Childs. Many of the problems discussed here, and outlined throughout the petition, would make for good discussion at Range meetings.

Medical Care: (Petition)

This subject has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Administration, but no action has been taken and they feel secure in at least having a doctor. The population strongly feels



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the present hospital system, from the day patient policy, to attitude of the hospital staff towards inmate needs, is in serious need of a change. For too long we have put up with these problems. To look for a better doctor is not asking too much. To feed a day patient in the hospital, rather than requiring movement to the units and dining hall, is a small request that needs immediate action taken upon it. This becomes crucial when a contagious disease like Flu is involved and exposure to the elements is the last thing needed. It surprises us that you all must not stop once in a while and wonder that we have not thought why it is, that, so long as one works for the system, they don't have to answer to anybody for their actions. Especially where the care and treatment of human beings is concerned. This area needs improving so much so, that it is presently classed as a mental physical torture chamber.

Medical Care: (ICM)

The Administration recognized there are some problems at times in the way that situations are handled, but hospital records show that all serious illnesses are being treated in a proper medical manner. When a treatment is questioned, the Administration are willing to investigate the matter. The various problems regarding day patient policy will be considered for changes.

Administration: (Petition)

This is a subject very messed up around here because nobody knows from one day to the next, who you are going to see in what position. Everybody is acting something or other in this wierd environment called a penal institution. We feel that if this body stopped it's

nutty game of musical chairs with everybody having a turn, so to speak, then we could make some of the necessary improvements. At the present time this body doesn't seem able to, or they just don't want to make decisions about anything, unless it is of regressive nature towards some particular individual or group of individuals. This creates frustration beyond the bounds of anything naturally human.

Administration: (ICM)

There is a national competition being held now for the job of Director but it is very complicated and will not be resolved for quite some time yet. Then the other positions, such as AD(Soc) and HLU will have to be taken care of also. The job of LU2 for #9 Unit needs to be filled so that the team work concept will have a leader to work around. There has been too much delay and the competition should be held soon. The Hobby Officer should be reclassified soon with less requirements so that a new man can be found for the job quickly. In the meantime another staff member may temporarily fill the position so that purchases of supplies can be made by people already licensed for a hobby.

Sports: (Petition)

The population feels this is an area of great concern. They feel that our present system is not very satisfactory and there doesn't seem to be many changes coming either. The population feels that they should be permitted to run most of the activities, also there should be more activities happening at any given time. The music program is nonexistent, and the age old reasoning of not enough staff seems void of rational thinking. Five to six men sit on

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a bench with no real apparent job or purpose there, other than to keep each other company. They should construct a small building with large windows in it, because then, at least, they could play cards with one another. Besides, no one in here is going anywhere. There is a double fence around the Institution and towers manned with riflemen.

Sports: (ICM)

It was proposed by the Inmate Committee to have an inmate as Sports Commissioner and that organization of sporting activities be run by inmates. This had been done in the past, but Mr. Lees pointed out that there had been problems at that time. Now we have Sports Reps and they can meet with the Committee and Recreation Staff to develop this idea. Another area that can be discussed is use of the lower field for sports activities such as a golf course.

Passes At Christmas: (Petition)

This is probably the most important time of year for passes. People who must travel a long distance, such as to Nfld. or Ontario, should have approval finalized well in advance so that travel arrangements can be made. These men in the population have expressed a great concern over this matter.

Passes At Christmas: (ICM)

Notices have been posted in all the Units that all requests for a TLA at Christmas must be turned in by September 27. This will insure that plenty of time is left for processing Community Assessments and such before travel arrangements are made.

Inmate Committee: (Petition)

Many people in the population feel that the rules governing the Committee are out of date, irrational, and even senile. They suggest that these rules be updated to this day and age where the population can really expect to be able to relate to their Committee, without fear of repercussions to themselves or members of the Committee.

Inmate Committee: (ICM)

The Committee was interested to know if the new constitution outlining the activities of the Committee had been approved by Ottawa. It was not known by the Administration. The Committee recognized the limitations on what work it can do, basically working on projects for large groups or the majority of the general population. We cannot speak for and cannot work on individual cases, although we may discuss it with him.

Staff Attitude Towards Inmates: (Petition)

Here, many inmates feel that there is a negative attitude toward them for the mere fact that they are inmates. By staff in particular, in the following areas: Kitchen, Hospital, SIS, Classification, Custody, as well as other probable departments that do not stick out so much. For example: If staff don't want an inmate to go out, for some reason all they have to do is say that your Community Assessment was poor from the police. Thus they are using the police as a lever, or scapegoat. When we all know that almost everybody gets a negative police assessment. Also many of the LU 1's staff are always stating that what they have to say about any individual case either inside the joint or even on parole reports means nothing, because nobody looks at it or listens to what they have to say. The population feel that this is the only man along with the shop instructors, who ever really gets to know an inmate. The population would like to know why things are so backwards in an institution, where are supposed to be so many intelligent people running it.

Staff Attitude Towards Inmates: (ICM)

There was much discussion which mostly covered the fact that there will always be certain staff members who will dislike inmates, but this is just human nature. An inmate who returns for parole violation can surely expect that he will really have to prove himself if he

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'Working with the female offender

is to earn again privileges such as TLA or parole, as was stated by the Administration.

Movies: (Petition)

If the movies are being censored, it should be stopped. The selection of movies is very poor and should be improved. Just because people are in this institution for being imperfect, movies are not going to change things either way. The sound system in the Auditorium is terrible, and this should be fixed so that the films can be understood. Everybody seems to agree that the sound is not good at all, but what's been done? Nothing, nothing at all.

Movies: (ICM)

According to an agreement made at the first of the year, Springhill ordered the movies and shared them with Dorchester until the budget was all used up on the first of August. The movies are all coming from Dorchester now and the money may run out before the new budget comes next year. An effort will be made to get a sound expert in to correct the problems with the sound system.

Mind Games: (Petition)

The population is completely frustrated by this element. Because they are having their minds messed over almost everyday by people who aren't qualified and even those who are, do so in a deliberate manner trying to obtain some set proposed results. We all know that these games exist and so do the Administration, as well as Ottawa officials. Only we doubt that we know what effect it is really having on the population in causing vast frustration and bitterness, or the actual results that this kind of thing can end up with. Also which seems to have been producing in the past by the large number of people returning to the institution for further periods of incarceration.

Mind Games: (ICM)

Although the population feel that their personal problems are not to be dealt with by staff, the staff see it as their job to get an inmate to work out the problems. The big question remains whether the staff is capable and knowledgeable enough to do this, or does it contain a threat to inmates well being.

Inmate Kitchen Clothing: (Petition)

The inmates that are working in the Kitchen have presented the Committee

with a petition of their own. Stating that the clothes they are receiving to work in are unsatisfactory. They are getting clothes that don't fit - which are too warm for the temperature that they have to work in, shirts having no buttons on them, pants with one leg longer than the other as well as torn and patched, as well as in a very poor condition otherwise. They feel that if they are to work to the best of their ability in an area which is very important to the population that they should be issued with the proper clothing and proper fitting, with ample changes to make their working there as comfortable and as clean as possible.

Inmate Kitchen Clothing: (ICM)

The report by B. Boutilier was presented and the recommendations were discussed. Under the present conditions the best advice is for an inmate to check his clothing when he receives it. The Administration will check on the policy of issuing new clothes when an inmate first arrives here.

Psychiatric Care: (Petition)

The population also feel that there are inmates in here who should be in another institution of a mental nature cause there they could get some of the help that they might need. Because in here they can't be getting the help that they need, also it is only causing more frustration within the population because they feel that this place is becoming a mental institution.

Psychiatric Care: (ICM)

The Administration recognizes the fact that some people here could use help in a different type of institution, but there is no Federal Mental Health facility in the Atlantic region. The only places are Dorchester hospital's second floor or the Provincial hospitals, and the Administration feels that as long as an inmate is not a danger to himself or anyone else here, this is the best place for him.

Well, that's the Petition and now we've seen that the Administration is willing to work with us on some items, while other items must stay as they are. Immediate action was taken on Christmas TLA's and Kitchen Workers Clothing, but Mind Games and Psychiatric Care are here to stay. The work goes on, writing letters to Ottawa, proposals and meeting with the Administration, and will always continue in the effort to bring the prisons into this day and age.

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY

NEWS RELEASE:



Gay Alliance Forms

Civil Rights Committee

The Gay Alliance for Equality of Halifax today announced the formation of a new working committee on civil rights. The committee will investigate and identify areas of anti-homosexual discrimination in legislation and policy on the provincial and municipal levels of government and by businesses and non-governmental agencies, and will work to end such discrimination. The committee will also seek to educate the Nova Scotia public and their elected representatives on the right of the gay minority to such protection from discrimination as is now available to other minority groups. At present, the estimated eighty-thousand (80,000) homosexual women and men in Nova Scotia have no legal protection from discrimination in employment, housing and services.

The Civil Rights Committee will formulate specific recommendations for changes in legislation and policy which will be presented to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the City Councillors, or the Ministers of the appropriate departments.

One area of concern that has already been identified is the need for the inclusion of the term "sexual orientation" in the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, as an essential step to protect gay people from unjust and arbitrary discrimination.

The Civil Rights Committee welcomes inquiries and correspondence from the public, particularly from those who may have witnessed or suffered from anti-gay discrimination. All mail should be addressed c/o Gay Alliance for Equality, P.O. Box 161, Armdale Station, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4G9; or contact Robin Metcalfe, Secretary, at (902) 425-6967.



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REPORT: CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by GREG SCOTT

The Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 1973 to bridge the gap between The prisons and the community. But what is the committee supposed to do; where are the limits of its power? Until last fall the committee was still unsure of itself to really take a stand on any issues or to dig into any matter it was curious about. The future direction of the C.A.C. has now been narrowed down to two acceptable possibilities, which are:

- A) to study and analyze (principle of corrections, goals of F.C.A, etc.)
- B) active involvement in issues (eg: recent Inmate Committee Petition)

I personally am more interested in the active role, but only have one vote in the actual decision making process.

The last meeting of the committee was held on September 13, 1976, in A-1 boardroom, with four members attending. Unfortunately, only one of these members was a citizen; Ruth Cottingham-Chairman. The other three were from the prison itself; Arden Thurber (H.S.D.)-secretary, and two representatives of the population, Frank Oliver and Greg Scott.

»»«

Some of the items discussed were:

- A) G. Scott's outline of a proposal made in June dealing with the function of the C.A.C. (active involvement in public relations, more awareness of what is going on inside, liason between inside and outside groups, and to release information to media.)



B) The lack of an Arts and Crafts instructor.

C) The A.P.C.C.A. Conference in Moncton on September 29, and that organization's pledge to ensure inmate representation at conferences.

D) A report on the Amel Project. Everything seems under control with that group.

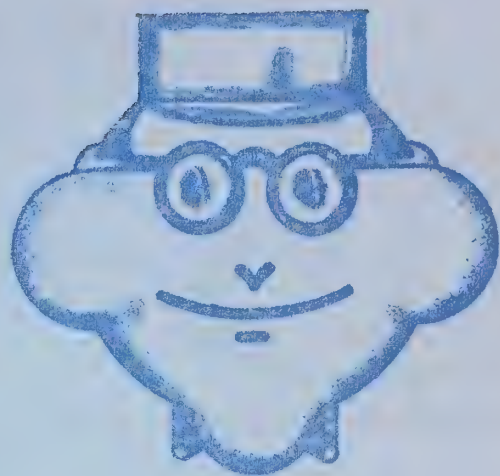
The next meeting is scheduled for Oct, 4, and the Inmate Committee is invited to present their petition and to let everyone know how they made out. The object of the meeting is to educate the C.A.C., and through their understanding the public, in the areas of concern and dissatisfaction among the population.

Several prospective new members will also be invited to the meeting.



NUMBER 8 L.U.

by 'YOGI' BLONDEAU



Well there is not very much happening around the Unit these days. Field Day was the big day for the inmates in this joint. #8 Unit walked away with all the trophies again. Jessi Geary was a big help by winning a few trophies on his own.

The Unit Fastball team also walked away from the rest of the Units. #8 has 23 wins, 1 tie, and 2 losses in regular season play. The boys on the team are:

"Tub" O'Brien - Pitcher
"Teddy Bear" Chinn - Catcher
"Bush" Bushfan - 1st Base
"Gypsy" Benwell - 2nd Base
"Yogi" Blondeau - 3rd Base
"Jessi" Geary - Short Stop
"Pit" Dorion - Right Field
"Tiny" Dargavel - Center Field
Alex Burton - Left Field

Subs:

"Hect" Hector - 3rd Base
"Kripple" Bevis - 3rd Base

Dunbar - Right Field
Joe Baker - 2nd Base
Steve Tucker - 1st Base, Coach

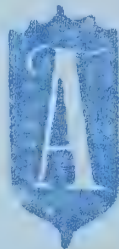
All players on the team were awarded medals for being the first place team all season. "Tub" O'Brien was picked for Most Valuable Player of the Year and we all think he deserved the award because if we didn't have him we wouldn't have been #1 all season.

Darcy Lunn was our 1st Baseman but he was released Friday, August 13. The team will miss him in the playoffs as he was one of our best hitters and a very good player.

The Parole Board sits this week. There will be happy guys running around and a few disappointed ones too. Good luck guys. As for me, this is my last write up for the Unit because I'm going out real soon, but I still say not soon enough.

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Our Twenty-Sixth Year



BRINE & GRIME IN NUMBER NINE

by RAGTAG TORO



"THEY'RE THE BEST"

That was what Charlie Turner of D-range had to say about the magnificent and invincible Number Nine hemp-haulers in the Tug-O-War on Field Day. Couched by that burly truck driver and veteran twine snapper, Al Spicer, a dynamic team composed of Charlie himself, Glen Butcher, Gordie Davis, Len Downey, "Super Frog" Placide Francoeur, Chris Hebert, Len Howell, Roger Parsons, Calvin Pittman, and Murray Thompson, with Don Bernard and Cecil LaPierre on standby to fill in the craters gouged in the concrete by the heels of this formidable bunch.

"I couched 'em," admitted Al with disarming modesty. "They did what I told 'em to--so they won--coz we're the best."

"Beating the feet" also came in for a proud display from the unit with the fleetest feet in the joint as Wayne Toney, closely followed by Roger Parsons, stretched a leg to win the One-Mile Trot. Just to prove it could be done again, Wayne whipped off the honors in the 880 yard dash.

Charlie felt that Field Day had to represent a tide of Newfie spirit and even though deprived of his man's ration of Screech, managed a lift of trophies

in weight lifting, throwing the discuss, putting the shot, and with Roger Parsons as the one wheeled weapon, won the wheel barrow race.

With regards to the fitness promotion angle of the program, the cagiest move of the day was that Charlie chose Steve Neary--that fancy shootin' Arnold Palmer of Number Nine--and that the two of them went on to win the golf tournament.

The relay race was almost ours. "We had it won, but a partner had a fall," Charlie said before going on to explain in his stubborn Newfie logic: "That was Shade--he tried the hardest. If we all would have tried as hard as he did, he wouldn't have had to try so hard."

In between bouts of playing the "Stoned Rolls" for the benefit of the spectators in the numbing weather, Chris Hebert went on to pick up more honors in weight lifting. (Couldn't let the Newfs have it all their own way--no way!)

- 0 -

"The Russians are coming!"

- 0 -

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When they erected a statue of Glen Campbell in Nashville, Tennessee, they had to call it the LIMESTONE COWBOY,

- 0 -

"I'm sure their coming."

- 0 -

- 0 -

"Why are they coming?"
"Who Knows?"!

- 0 -

CULTURE FLOURISHES IN THE UNIT

With the return of the local rainy season--after its usual midsummer break of 3½ days--some of the hands in Number Nine have overcome their idleness to go back to hobby crafts.

Whilst the maddening instability of the Hobby Officer position has put things in slings for another while, some of us have been able to produce some quality material. There is no doubt that the workmanship of those producing leather goods matches anything found on the street, although it may in a way find its equal in ingenuity amongst some of those in other crafts.

It is well known in the unit that the three-foot models of the "Bluenose" built by Len Howell and Charlie Turner have taken their beautiful shapes and realism in spite of the severe restrictions imposed by authority--but just tell me who would take it into his head to think of taking the brass eyelids out of an old pair of shoes to make realistic and perfectly scaled portholes?

- 0 -

"The Cyrillics are coming!"
"The who?"
"The Russians, stupid."

- 0 -

We can't have the screws getting jealous because we're now a two Carr family--the other will have to go.

- 0 -

PAROLES

A casual look at the figures for July of the number of inmates who lost their earned remission leads one to ponder whether there is a direct relationship between the number of "hole shots" drawn in any particular unit and the degree of repression experienced in that unit.

Three inmates lost good time in #10, whereas there were sixteen in #8, eight in #11, and eleven here in our house of many delights.

One also wonders if it is also true as many of the inmates suspect--that there are fewer paroles granted in units showing the least communication and understanding.

We can congratulate Charlie Turner, Roger Parsons, and the all too few other people who were atleast able to make it back to the street. Why is it that parole is held back from inmates whom their peers in the population know are more than ready for it? The Inmate Committee should be empowered to make valid recommendations on this score--say, to the tune of one such recommendation per month. The Parole Board and those who advise it should be more aware of the genuinely responsible attitudes that prevail in the population at large. More recognition in this direction would indeed contribute towards quicker and more effective rehabilitation.

- 0 -

"The Cossacks are coming."
"The who?"
"The Cyrillics, stupid."

- 0 -

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- 0 -

"Trois gros rat gros roti dans la graisse." (Les bon mots chiaque du mois.)

- 0 -

"How do you know?"

"Can't you hear the Sputniks whistling 'The Redcoats Are Coming'?"

- 0 -

Jaycees Walkathon Project

Somewhat reminiscient of the times of "The Chain Gang Blues," that monstrous mountain of muscle, Joe Ghaney--all 98 pounds of him--is making a drumful of striped traditional convicts' uniforms, that in former days were used to prevent easy jail breaks, but are now being used to make an escape--for a few hours, at least.

Even the authorities, it is understood, have got into the act and have agreed to supply shackles--yes, leg irons which are still in daily use in 1976, to those who beleived that their use ended with the slave ships and deportation to Botany Bay--for an ambitious Jaycee project to raise funds for yet another worthy cause. It may suprise some people who have had little to do with convicts that the inmates in this project and the many other good works of the Jaycees that are genuine in their interest in the welfare of the mentally retarded. This is no con-shot. These

boys are really sincere in their efforts. They have devoted much time and energy for the benefit of others. We trust that they receive the support they so richly deserve.

Yes, people, convicts do care about you out there--and given the chance, will do their level best to help those other responsibilities of society such as the mentally retarded. We know the inhumanity of institutional life only too well not to have sympathy with those who have it thrust upon them.

Do you care as much?

- 0 -

"They're getting close--I can hear the crunch of their boots in the snow."

"But this is still summer."

"Thats how I know who they are."

- 0 -

When I was on the street I firmly believed that LUDO was a game that children played. Now I know that I was right.

- 0 -

"НЕ НУЖНО БЕСКОУНЬСЯ."

"Eh?"

"Russian for 'Not to worry'--they only eat pork and they brought none with them."

- 0 -

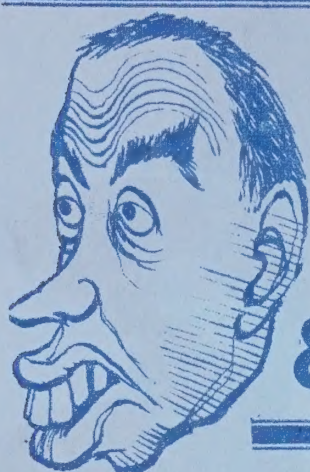
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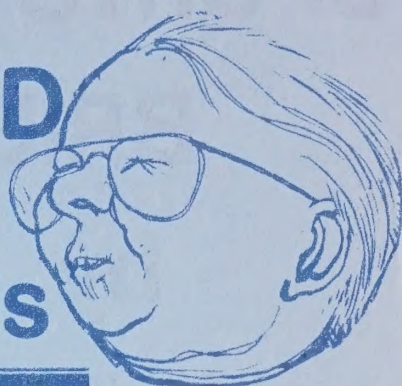
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NO 10 Unit: THE T.C. WORD by Teddy Carr & Brian McInnis



The long hot summer has been with us for quite a while now, and in No. 10 things have been a cookin'. As the count went down, we took a look around in the joint and picked up a few new people from other units. I'd like to say that we have all sorts of projects going, but we don't. There are things being planned but the wraps are still on so I can't say anything yet. Keep you in suspense.

A few fellows have put some work in with the Labor Pool, strictly charitable type work for places like Tidnish, and in the town of Oxford. They are having a good time while lending a helping hand to the local communities. This sort of thing is good for everyone, and certainly a change of scenery is a treat for us doing time.

On Field Day we had the special privilege of "Athlete of the Day", our own Roddy Mesher, just back from the farm. Although he didn't win any events, he tried hard by entering more events than anyone else. In the track department, Frank Tucker, our hottest commodity on two feet, put in a few good runs and was able to place second in the 440 and 880 races, but in the mile he only took third, just out of reach of another trophy.

Our fabulous ball team has gone through a lot of changes since the season opened, but as the play-offs came up we had a good solid team easily capable of taking the series. At the end of July the management of the team had fallen into the hands of Dick Huskins and Bill Lapointe. They worked hard at building

morale and putting a steady team together. Then we imported some hot talent from other units, just to fill in a few weak spots, like the pitchers mound. Since then the team had been coming on like a blockbuster, demolishing everything in sight, with that big ball trophy just shining in their eyes.

New blood on the team created new hassles to sort out in the last ten games, getting ready to take on #8 in Semi-final Play-offs. Three straight wins with a 10-0 shut-out in the final game wrapped up the semi-finals for #10 with the good hard chuckin' of Ray McFarland, and the power hittin' of John Spencer.

Then came the final task, the play-offs against #9. It came right down to the wire with us winning the 1st, 3rd, and 5th games and #9 winning the 2nd, 4th, and 6th games. The victory came to #9 in the last of the 7th inning in the final game. At this point they were trailing 9 - 6 and here they started the struggle and advanced to a 10 - 9 win over the #10 team.

The game could have gone either way and a fine display of fastball was shown by both teams.

Number 10 came a long way from the first of the season and they deserve a big hand for doing as well as they did. This was mainly due to the consistent help of Al Burnett, Tom Carter, Billy Graham and Bill Lapointe who stuck with the team through thick and thin.

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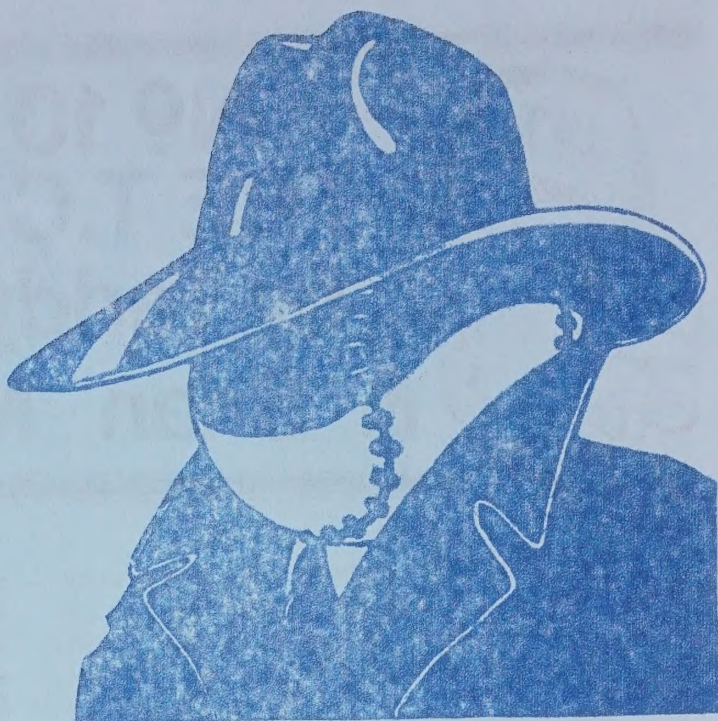
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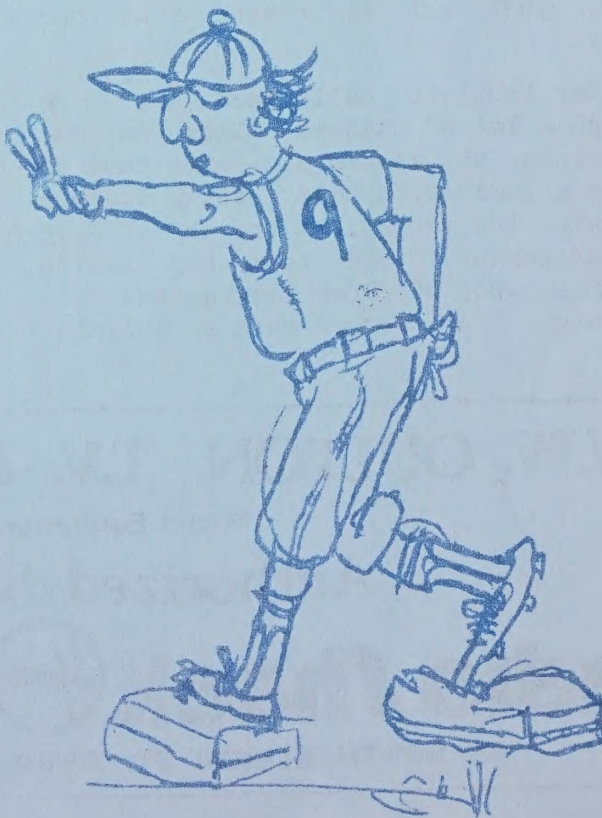
Well, as you all know, the ball championship went to unit nine as they beat number Eleven the best three out of five, first, even though number eleven gave them a hard series, as they battled the full five games. The captain of the number eleven team said "...if we had an other back-up pitcher..." he thinks that they would have been the champions, but there is another year coming.

Number Ten came back from being the underdogs all year to become an outstanding team during the playoffs. They beat number eight in the first three games, and one was a ten to nothing win, even though number eight put everything they had into it. Number ten was just too

much for them, it seems that BIG Spenser was the man it took to get things going for them. Number ten says they will play next year, hoping to come out the winner.

I guess that is all the ball news, other than to name the four top ball players picked from each unit. We have
Walter O'Brian - Number eight
Donnie Page - Number nine
Earl Waugh - Number ten
Junior Marshall - Number eleven

Well, fellows let's get a good soccer team going and see if we can't have a good series and don't forget that the hockey season is just around the corner, so let's get ready for it.

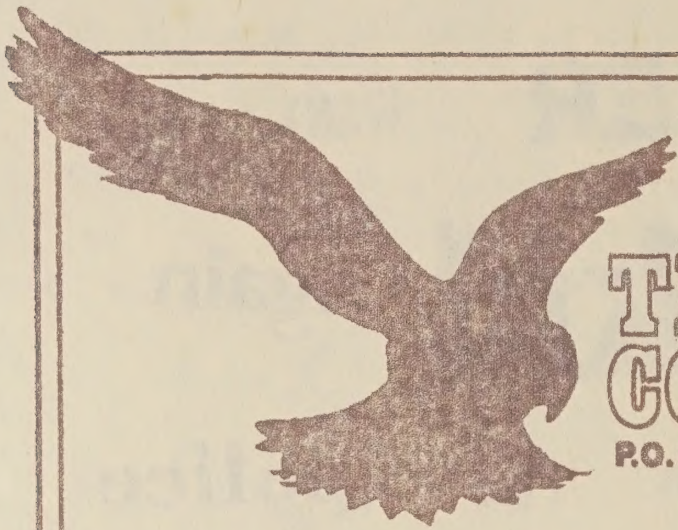


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